

To: Molly Holt  
NOAA

From: Barnes Nursery, Inc.  
Sharon Barnes

Re: Enclosures

Date: December 3, 2002

Four enclosures include:

- a selection of letters written on behalf of the project.
- the TRC Environmental Consultants Report on their assessment of the Project Area and its impact on the State Nature Preserve
- the Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of the East Sandusky Bay Hydrology Restoration Project in Erie County, Ohio. This Phase I report was designed to identify and preliminarily assess cultural resources located within the project area. The result of this report was that no further investigation need be done in this area.
- the Wetland Inventory, Survey and Mapping Report for Barnes Nursery, done for the Corps as part of their permitting process.

Please let us know if you have questions regarding any of these enclosures.

To: Molly Holt  
NOAA

From: Barnes Nursery, Inc.  
Sharon Barnes

Re: Public Opinion

Date: December 3, 2002

Our firm did not go out and ask our many friends and supporters to write to you on our behalf. I have hoped that this was not a contest and would be decided on fact and good science.

However over the last two years of this ongoing issue many have written on our behalf. I have enclosed copies of some of the many letters that were sent either to the Corps, Ohio EPA or political figures on our company's behalf. This is purely to let you know that there may appear to be overwhelming opposition to this project, but frequently we can be deceived by appearances.

Most of the comments that are coming to you from our opposition are coming from those who have never seen this project and have been told many things that are inaccurate about the project. NONE of those who support us want Barnes Nursery over the marshland. They want both. And we believe it can happen by working things out.

The first two letters are most interesting: The first from Guy Denney, former ODNR Chief over this area; the second is an Email communication from Jim Bissel, botonist from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

observed no signs of erosion from the spoil material into the nature preserve. The impact on water quality from erosion seems a moot point considering that in what little pockets of water remained on these mud flats, were packed thousands of spawning carp in water barely deep enough to cover their backs. They were rolling and churning up the water until it was the color and consistency of chocolate milk.

As one would expect, the spoil bank has quickly revegetated with both native as well as some non-native invasive species including purple loosestrife and phragmites. Both of these invasive species were already quite prevalent in the nature preserve and on adjacent private land. My colleague Jim Bissell, Botanist and Natural Areas Manager for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, who has also visited the site, told me he believes the greatest threat to the rare wetlands system at Sheldon Marsh is lack of management for the alien plants that are emerging from the seed bank on the newly exposed mud flats throughout this wetland complex including those exposed within the nature preserve. He believes the Barnes channel provides a barrier to the phragmites clones presently along the shore inland from the channel and spoil bank. I agree with Jim that without the Barnes channel, the phragmites would quickly move north onto state nature preserve land, and that is the greatest threat to the nature preserve.

Lastly, I want to point out that if Barnes Nursery can not access an abundant and very economical source of water for irrigation, and is forced to move its nursery operation, this will become prime land for residential development. I know ODNR would like to own this property but doesn't have the funding to acquire it. Clearly, the open space of a nursery operation makes a more desirable neighbor and buffer to the nature preserve than would be a high density housing development. In my opinion, it is in the best interest of preserving this wetland complex to keep the channel reservoir in place and Barnes Nursery as a neighbor.

Sincerely,

Guy L. Denny

From Jim Bissell, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, in response to an inquiry from Laura Fay regarding his site visit.

To: "Laura Fay" <Laura.Fay@epa.state.oh.us>

Subject: Re: East Sandusky Bay Irrigation Channel Project

Cc: stu.lewis@dnr.state.oh.us, kim.baker@odnr.state.oh.us, scott.zody@dnr.state.oh.us

Laura,

I do consider the channel as a barrier that will prevent the shoreline clones of phragmites from moving into the rare Palustrine Silt Plain Community that is germinating from the seed bank on both the private lands south of the channel and the State Nature Preserve lands north of the dike. I recommend leaving the dike and

channel. I did tell the Mrs. Barnes and her consultant they should attempt to establish sand bar willow (*Salix exigua*) on the dike instead of cottonwood.

Cottonwood trees would shade out the rare Palustrine Silt Plain Community that currently grows just north of the base of the dike. I would probably also recommend planting blue joint reed-grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) along the base of the dike and switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*) along the upper slopes and top of the dike. Add ( )

I had anticipated an environmental disaster based upon the reports I had heard prior to visiting the site. The greatest threat to the rare wetland system at

Sheldon's Marsh is lack of management for the alien plants that are emerging from the seed bank along with several State Endangered plants. Most of the rare species germinating on the newly exposed mud flats are members of the Palustrine Silt Plain Community. The low relief, protected shores along the mainland south of Cedar Point are the best examples of this rare community in Ohio. Other rare plants germinating from the seed bank are members of the emergent marsh community that naturally replace the Palustrine Silt Plain Community a year or two after new flats are exposed. I am most concerned by the alien narrow-leaved cattails and purple loosestrife that are emerging throughout the newly exposed mud flats. The phragmites clones on private lands along the shore south of the channel and dike also pose a great threat to the system. The Barnes channel does provide a barrier to the phragmites clones

presently along the shore inland from the channel and dike. Without the channel, the phragmites would quickly move north onto the State Nature Preserve land. I did suggest to Mrs. Barnes and her consultant that they should consider spraying herbicide on the phragmites south of the channel back to the forest shade zone along the shore. I also suggested they hire someone to pull and dig out the cattail seedlings and purple loosestrife. I told them they should promote the greater bur-reed, arrowheads, bulrushes and pickerel weed that will establish high quality emergent marshes on the flats if the aliens are removed. I made this same recommendation to staff from the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves after I visited the site.

The newly exposed flats on the private lands south of the channel and the State Nature Preserve lands north of the channel are definitely Category 3 wetlands. If

the aliens were not germinating along with the members of the Palustrine Silt Plain Community and members of the Great Lakes Emergent Marsh Community such as greater bur-reed, pickerel weed, common arrow-head, wapato, southern blue flag, soft-stemmed bulrush, american three-square and river bulrush, the recently exposed mud flats would quickly succeed to emergent marsh dominated by greater bur-reed.

The narrow-leaved cattail seedlings and purple loosestrife seedlings can easily be hand-pulled the first year they germinate but once the rhizome establishes they are very difficult to dig out. The Museum established 14 woodland pools for amphibians last year at Mentor Marsh and two of the most open ponds had several hundred narrow-leaved cattail seedlings. Three conservation interns spent two full weeks pulling the cattails this summer.

The slots in the dike should allow waters and seed material to move back and forth.

*Threatened*

I did find rare species germinating from the seed bank both on the private lands inland from the dike and channel and on State Nature Preserve lands north of the base of the dike. As stated above, narrow-leaved cattails and purple loosestrife are germinating along with the rare species. North of the dike I found several seedlings of the State-Endangered wapato (*Sagittaria cuneata*). This is the first record of this rare plant for Sheldon's marsh. I also found dozens of the State Endangered Engelmann's spike-rush (*Eleocharis engelmannii*) throughout the newly exposed mud flats on both the private lands south of the channel and throughout the State Nature Preserve lands north of the channel. I found the first record for this species in northern Ohio at Sheldon's Marsh during a prior low lake level in 1988.

If the alien plants were removed as they germinate from the seed bank, the native plant that formerly dominated emergent marshes on Sandusky Bay would establish as the lake level falls. Greater bur reed (*Sparganium eurycarpum*) is the former dominant species along the bay. The plant is essentially absent throughout the shorelines of Sandusky Bay today because the alien complex of purple loosestrife, phragmites, canary grass, narrow-leaved cattail and hybrid cattail have replaced the native emergent marshes that once grew along the shore. Greater bur-reed is present in the seed bank off shore and it is germinating along with the rare plants and alien plants as the waters of Lake Erie lower and to expose new silt flats.

I will be here during the rest of today but I will be away on vacation next week. Please get back to me if you have additional questions.

Jim

At 03:59 PM 11/14/2001 -0500, you wrote:

*have instead of her*



Mr. Michael G. Montone, Project Manager  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
1776 Niagara St.  
Buffalo, New York 14207

[Michael.g.montone@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.g.montone@usace.army.mil).

RE: Barnes Wetland Project  
Huron, Ohio

Dear Sir,

Being a year around shoreline resident of East Sandusky Bay for the past 15 years, I have witnessed and personally been through the extremely high lake water years and the present extremely low lake level conditions.

High water has caused flooded crop fields, lost revenue, land erosion, marsh elimination, not to mention washed out duck, goose, and other marsh habitat breeding areas.

Conversely, low water is producing unproductive mud flats, and, tens of thousands of rotting carp and other lake species, which get trapped in offshore wind conditions. The smell and rot is both unbearable and inexcusable as a diking system with

deep water channels could be implimented to benefit all of our wildlife and human population who maintain full-time residence on the East Bay shore.

Over 100 years ago the Cedar Point chausee was constructed and much more recently the newer Cedar Point road was built. Both man-made roadways have permanently disrupted the natural lake and Bay shoreline, and, then when Barnes Nursery introduces a partial remedy, at their expense, to the existing man-made problems, he is met with irrational opposition.

Mr. Barnes and his family and countless others in his employ depend upon sound conservation and ecological management practices to maintain their business. Barnes Nursery has been a pillar of Huron Township and The City of Huron for well over 50 years. He has helped develop this area into a thriving, prosperous community in which to live through his generous donations and personal support of every conceivable community organization and activity. His deep water channel project will also benefit Sheldons Marsh and all of the East Bay area. It will not only provide water for his nursery operation, but, in addition, it will provide a healthier and more productive ecosystem through a more regulated environment.

Thank you for your time invested,

Jim Maxey  
The Retriever Barn  
Huron, Ohio 44839  
[Hunddogs@aol.com](mailto:Hunddogs@aol.com)



# **CRAIG H. STAHL**

107 Lurie Lane

Sandusky, Ohio 44870

(419) 625-7780

November 16, 2001

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Bowling Green, OH

This letter is in strong support of the Barnes Nursery project in the east part of Sandusky Bay.

I have lived on the Cedar Point peninsula for the better part of 40 years.

Forty years ago the area in question was a much different area. It was a marshy area with water moving and running through many twisting canals and islands.

In fact, I vividly remember where some of the islands were located.

Obviously, today the area is much different.

Even if the water level increased it would never be the same. Where ducks and geese once swam, seedlings of trees now exist.

In my mind, it is an area that desperately needs a constant supply of water to restore the marsh to its former condition.

I have seen one good sign, a channel that has developed from the Willow road heading towards the Barnes property.

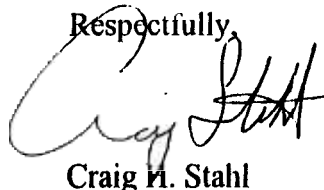
If a similar deep channel was connected to the Barnes property, possibly both marsh vegetation and wildlife would again flourish in the area.

As a Cedar Point resident, I feel fortunate to have Barnes Nursery as a neighbor. Their willingness to spend their time and resources to accomplish their goal of an ample supply of water, while at the same time greatly benefiting the marsh area, should be applauded.

This Cedar Point resident strongly supports Barnes Nursery's application.

Please feel free to contact with any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Craig Stahl', written over the printed name.

Craig H. Stahl

July 2, 2001

Dr. & Mrs. Robert G. Fidler, Sr.  
3319 Cleveland Road West,  
Huron, Ohio 44839

Mr. Michael G. Montone  
Project Manger  
U.S. Project Corps of Engineers  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, New York 14207

Reference: Public Hearing Water Restoration Project Barnes Nursery

Dear Mr. Montone,

For more than thirty years my wife and I have lived very close to Barnes Nursery. We have been associated with them, as neighbors and as a customer for three generations. Because we share an important and unique waterway with Barnes Nursery and many other families we have been mindful of conservation efforts to protect wildlife.

We believe the wetlands are a part of a national trust and we carefully observe the use and/or abuse of our heritage. Therefore, we are deeply appreciative of the on-going management practices demonstrated by Barnes Nursery to conserve, promote and protect the environment in a sensitive manner. We have watched the nursery grow and become a highly responsible, million-dollar business and a major area employer. In addition, Barnes Nursery has been a most generous contributor to our local area, as well as the State of Ohio.

Wildlife appears to be increasing in number and are highly visible; including eagles; migrating geese (and those who make this area their permanent home), as well as the heron and the fish.

We urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Barnes Nursery to work together to resolve issues concerning the Water Restoration Project. Since, the property in question is privately owned and Barnes has always had access to water from East Sandusky Bay, we would like to see all efforts be placed on creative solutions that will allow Mr. Barnes and his family to continue to provide trees and flowers and to recycle our yard waste. To this end he must have water.

Respectfully Yours,

Robert and Gloria Fidler

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert & Gloria Fidler". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Cc: Barnes, Taft, Voinovich, Montgomery, Jones, Armbruster, Lendrum

June 8, 2001

Michael G. Montone, Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
1776 Niagra Street  
Buffalo, New York, 14207

Dear Sir:

**RE: Barnes Nursery**

I am retired. From 1973 to 1996, I managed 216 acres of property with 3000' of frontage on Lake Erie, immediately west of ODNR property, which is known as Sawmill Creek Resort. I have seen the effects of high water on our frontage and the effects of low water on our marina and golf course. I am well acquainted with the recession of the barrier beach at Sheldon's Preserve.

In the late 1980's, as a result of low water, the intake for the irrigation system of Sawmill Creek Golf Course, which was located up in Sawmill Creek, south of the lake, was above the existing water level. It was a disaster for the golf course. Our entire irrigation system was dependent on receiving an adequate water supply from Lake Erie. The Corps of Engineers allowed us to dig a deeper channel in the bottom of Sawmill Creek from the Marina to the Pump House, and install a 24" culvert, to the intake of the pump house. It literally saved the day. This situation is very similar to the problem Barnes Nursery is facing today. Without an adequate water supply, Barnes Nursery is facing a disastrous situation, which will destroy their 50 year old business, all due to the fluctuating levels of Lake Erie.

I looked at the proposed plan submitted to the Corps of Engineers, approved, and later rescinded, to enhance their water supply. It looks like a

reasonable solution to their problem to me, with very little, if any effect on the environment. The additional channel needed to connect the existing work with deeper water will not do harm to the environment. I urge you to work with Barnes Nursery and their consultant, Ed Herdendorf, to solve their problem with reasonable cost in mind. I have the highest regard for the integrity of Dr. Herdendorf. I know what a pump house cost and I have a good idea of what the dredging work to date must have cost. The project was probably 75% completed when you rescinded their permit. It is my opinion, that you have to work with Barnes Nursery to solve their problem in a manner that they can live with, and not just say "No."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William T. Bainbridge". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large, stylized 'W' and 'B'.

William T. Bainbridge  
917 Beachside Lane  
Huron, Ohio 44839

cc: Senator George Voinovich  
317 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**MARSHALL G. BROWNE**

918 BEACHSIDE LANE  
BEACHWOOD COVE  
HURON, OHIO 44839

Michael G. Montone  
Regulatory Branch  
Buffalo District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199

June 8, 2001

Dear Mr. Montone:

I am writing to you concerning the application of Barnes Nursery, Inc. of Erie County, Ohio for a permit to restore an irrigation channel at the eastern end of Sandusky Bay. Earlier this week I had an opportunity to visit the project and observe the work already completed. As a long time resident of the area I am pleased to see the conscientious approach being taken by Barnes Nursery in providing environment benefits to the bay at the same time as restoring needed water flow for both irrigation and wetland growth needs.

For over 40 years I have been a contractor and developer in Erie County. Several of my projects have been along the Lake Erie coast and I am well aware of the difficulties in obtaining agency permits. One of my projects, Beachwood Villas, built on the east side of Huron, Ohio, involved a complex of lakefront condominiums and a marina. Because the marina projected out into Lake Erie and interrupted the littoral drift of sand toward the west, it was directed that a sand by-pass system should be installed to insure that no down drift erosion would be caused by the marina breakwalls. Over the past 14 years this system has proved to be very successful in that protective beaches have been created on both the east and west sides of the marina.

I cite this example for a very good reason. The massive (3000 feet long) harbor entrance structures at Huron, Ohio, constructed by the Corps of Engineers, do not include an provisions for by passing sand accumulated on the up drift (east) side of these structures. This lack of foresight on the part of the design engineers has been directly the cause of the water availability problems now being experienced by Barnes Nursery. The Huron Harbor jetties have effectively stopped the westward flow of sand. As a result the Cedar Point sand spit and the natural channel through the East End of the bay have been seriously compromised. The spit is narrower due to sand starvation and has been broken

through as waves overtopped the spit. This overreaching process continued until the natural channel was destroyed and filled with sediment.

As a direct result of this process, the water source formerly available to Barnes Nursery has been lost. The current low lake levels have made this situation particularly critical. As the agency primarily responsible for the dire water problem being experienced by Barnes Nursery, I believe it is incumbent upon the Corps of Engineers to do everything possible to restore a reliable source of irrigation water for this business. I have reviewed the proposed plan outlined in the public notice and believe that it is a reasonable first step to correcting this situation. It will provide an interim solution to the water needs of Barnes Nursery while also enhancing the degraded environment of the east bay.

Ultimately, however, the Corps of Engineers will have to do more (i.e. do the right thing) by 1) providing an effective sand by-pass system for Huron Harbor and other harbors to the east, 2) pump sand that has been lost to the offshore deep waters back into the littoral system west of Huron, 3) reestablish the sand spit to its pre-Huron jetty position, and 4) restore the former natural channel throughout the eastern end of Sandusky Bay. I urge the corps of engineers to take immediate steps to implement this four-step plan beginning with obtaining all the necessary approvals and providing the funding to correct this situation.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns.

Sincerely,



Marshall G. Browne, C.E., M.S.E.

Cc Barnes Nursery ✓  
Senator George V. Voinovich  
State Senator Jeffry Armbruster  
State Representative Tom Lendrum



**Thomas M. Hastings**  
**Huron City Councilman**

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14207

Attn: Mr. Michael G. Montone, Project Manager

Re: Barnes Nursery Project – Huron, OH.

Dear Mr. Montone,

I have been a resident of the City of Huron for over forty years. As a young man, I enjoyed many Cub Scout and Boy Scout campovers at the Sheldon's Marsh Area (formerly Sheldon's Folly) adjacent to the Barnes Nursery Project. As a recent Father, I am taking my daughter to the same area to enjoy the natural surroundings. Compromising the integrity of this area is the last thing I would care to see happen.

I support the project proposed by Barnes Nursery and believe that it can be completed in a manner that will not impact Sheldon's Marsh. One would only need to travel thirty miles to the west of Huron to view an area that contains many dikes and levies. These dikes, built many years ago, west of the Port Clinton area were built to drain wetland areas and support agricultural use. Their design, most likely did not consider the wildlife management practices used today. The Crane Creek Wildlife Refuge lies within this area, and despite the many dikes and levies surrounding it, it would be difficult to dispute its beauty and success. I believe that with proper diligence, the Barnes Nursery project can have similar results.

As we have seen in the local media, I would guess that you have heard from many supporters of environmental causes, opposing this project. Many have suggested that irreparable damage to Sheldon's Marsh will occur if the project proceeds forward. Yet I have heard no one able quantify this damage or offer any data that will support their claims.

The Barnes Family has been an active member of the Huron community for many years. They have assisted the city, the schools and many service organizations with donations of nursery stock, cash and in-kind services. While their generosity has no bearing on the facts you must review for the permit application, I would suggest that the success of the nursery is of great importance to the residents of the City of Huron and the many people who earn their livings employed by the Barnes organization.

I am certain, that with careful consideration and planning, the Barnes Nursery project and nature will successfully co-exist.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concern.

Best regards,

Tom Hastings

TO : BOB / SHARON BARNES  
COPY E-MAILED TO DAY !!  
-Tom H.

Copy

**Jacob J. & L. June Claus**  
**318 Wasta Avenue**  
**Huron OH 44839**

June 7, 2001

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo NY 14207-3199  
[Michael.g.montone@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.g.montone@usace.army.mil)

Attention: Mr. Michael G. Montone, Project Manager

Re: East Sandusky Bay Water Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Montone:

We would like to express our opinion regarding the water project undertaken by Barnes Nursery and their current permit application.

The Barnes Nursery "family" have been an important part of the Huron City and Erie County community for over 50 years. Those of us who have lived in this area for many years (42 years personally) are extremely aware of the impact this business has had on our area, both environmentally and economically. They are active members in all aspects of the community including school board, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Huron Historical Society (being responsible for it's creation), Duck's Unlimited and many more. They are active and concerned citizens of our county and state. Some of their environmental work is done on a national and international level as well. They contribute to local charities and support local activities both monetarily and with personal involvement. They were very involved in the creation of the Arboritum and Butterfly/Bird Gardens at Firelands College. Their business is dedicated to making our environment more pleasing and comfortable for people as well as wild life. They totally support the Sheldon Marsh area adjoining their property and understand its impact on the wetlands area.

We make these points to emphasize the fact that the Barnes family, who own this nursery business, would not do anything unfriendly to the environment – it would be against all of their business, as well as personal, principles.

They do need a lot of water to run their business and the low lake levels of recent years have made this acquisition most difficult and unreasonably expensive. They have tried all of the other options to obtain water including wells, ponds, county water, etc. and found none to be feasible. They have an obligation to over 150 families in their employ and have worked very hard to solve this problem. They applied for and received a permit from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and had help from the U. S. Fish & Wildlife. They have consulted with biological and environmental experts to assure that the project they proposed would not harm the environment in any way. With these permits and assurances, they moved forward.

**PLEASE RENEW THEIR PERMIT AND ALLOW THEM TO CONTINUE WITH THIS PROJECT AGAIN.**

Sincerely,

*L. June Claus*  
*Jacob J. Claus*

Jacob & June Claus  
Concerned Citizens

Cc: Governor Bob Taft  
Senator George V. Voinovich  
Ohio Attorney General Betty D. Montgomery  
Christopher Jones, Ohio EPA Director  
Jeffrey J. Armbruster  
J. Tom Lendrum, Ohio State Representative  
Friends of Sheldon Marsh

David M. May  
107 46<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sandusky OH 44870

June , 2001

Michael G. Montone, Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo NY 14207

Re: EAST SANDUSKY BAY WATER RESTORATION PROJECT

Sir,

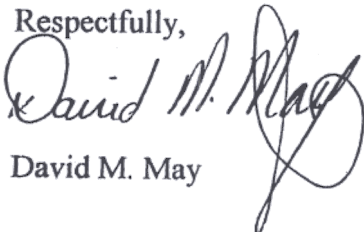
I have been associated with the Barnes family for nearly twenty years, not only on a personal basis, but also as a colleague and employee. Barnes Nursery is very successful, and this success has been brought about by sound judgment and careful planning. Decisions are not taken lightly, but made to benefit the firm, its employees, and the community. The Green industry looks to Barnes Nursery as a leader, because of the company's integrity and accountability.

Barnes Nursery employs over 150 personnel, many of whom have more than ten years of service, making their homes locally, sending their children to the local schools. The Barnes family themselves reside locally. That the company should intend ill to the community in which both employees and owners reside is a nonsensical idea. This company is a community asset, not a liability.

During the past ten years, I have personally noticed a dramatic decline in the wildlife population around Barnes Nursery. In early spring, the area at the north end of the nursery was once alive with migrating ducks and wading birds, which used the area as a stop-over before traveling on to their nesting sites. Bald eagles once perched in the large trees between fishing forays. As the lake level dropped, the numbers of birds dwindled. Where once there was water, there is now little more than a mud flat. As designed by the Corps of Engineers, the Restoration Project (which is a ditch with wildlife habitation islands constructed from the excavated material, and not a dyke as claimed by ill-informed opponents) was intended to bring water back to the area. Restoring the area to its former condition, benefiting the wildlife habitat, is a responsible action, not an irresponsible one.

I urge you to consider the project in the manner in which it was conceived, as a benefit for all concerned.

Respectfully,



David M. May

**5 June, 2001**

**Michael G. Montone Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, New York 14207**

**Shawn J. Bickley  
129 Richland Ave.  
Huron, OH 44839  
(419) 433-8989**

**Dear Mr. Montone;**

**Subject: In favor of Barnes Nursery's deep-water restoration project:**

**Please allow a small introduction, I have lived within 1 mile of Sheldon's Marsh most of my 35 years, every knoll, crevice, valley, and tree has been revisited countless times. Growing up on Sheldon's Marsh was not only a privilege but has become a time honored tradition. My father's father, my father, and now being a father of three children myself, Sheldon's Marsh has provided some of the most enjoyable, educational, and memorable times for our families.**

**Let's take a moment and look at the whole picture here, The grand entrance into the marsh was once Cedar Point's property and road way to the amusement park, obviously no restoration after many years of storm damage to lakefront roads etc. NASA tore the whole place up with the pumping station. Sawmill Creek Resort destroyed the entire eastern half of the marsh and stream with a resort, marina, condo's and golf course. Point Retreat completely decimated the Northwest corner with its oversized condo's and marina. In addition to all of this, residential homes are pushing ever so near the marsh due to the masses of overzealous people wanting to get closer to the water.**

**Of all the Sheldon's Marsh neighbors, show the world someone other than Barnes Nursery, that has done something good for the marsh, as they built on or near the State's property. Final answer...you can't.**

Finally there is a true environmental preservationist that owns property along the marsh. This is a win-win situation for all of us. The benefit for Mr. Barnes and Barnes Nursery Inc. is simple, WATER, WATER, and more WATER! The benefit for the marsh is endless, deep-water habitat, nesting grounds for many species of waterfowl and migratory birds; marine and aquatic life will thrive, not to mention various plant species also. This is a black and white issue, there are no gray zones. The general public has no idea of the atrocities committed to the land and marsh over the past 100 years.

I personally challenge you to a complete 100-year study of Sheldon's Marsh and it's never ending history and beauty. Arriving at (PROCEED WITH PROJECT) will be one of the easiest decisions you have ever made.

In closing, a few thoughts to leave with are as follows, having this project on private property and adjacent to the States property surely the best interest for all the marsh is life! The ecosystem needs this project in order to survive, not just survive but thrive.

The opportunity is there for you to make an impact on life where life has left.

Sincerely,

Shawn J. Bickley

**Ron Parron**  
210 Bogart Road  
Huron, Ohio 44839

June 5, 2001

Dear Mr. Montone,

I was born and raised in Berlin Heights, a small community near Huron. I have spent the last 16 years of my life working for Barnes Nursery. My job is heading up the landscape maintenance division—trouble shooting and estimating. I have serviced thousands of customers for the company. There is one thing I can tell you is a constant: The management and workforce of this company is as solid as they come. We all are here every day, all day. We do what we say, and keep our promises. I could not spend my days with a greater group of people.

Throughout my 39 years of existence I have found that there will always be somebody wanting to fight change. Whether you put in a clothesline or plant a tree on your property, someone will comment and even challenge your right to do it because it impacts their view or they simply do not like it. Change can be good when you agree with it. But change is bad when you disagree with it. Change is particularly difficult for those who can not see it as part of all of life.

I have heard from the "Friends" of Sheldon's Marsh that this project will ruin the wetlands. Well I, too, am a friend of this marsh and have visited Sheldon's as well as the "Barnes" project many times. I KNOW that when this project is completed it will be beautiful. Appropriate trees and plants (London Plane Tree, Sumac, Willow, etc.) along with the grasses and aquatic plants will cover the islands. No one can make it happen faster and do it better than our company!! I witnessed more wildlife and fish in and around the project's canal during dry periods than anywhere else in the Preserve last year. Last evening I saw 4 Eagles perched in a dead tree on Barnes property near the project) along with Trumpeter Swans, Heron and even a turtle on the "dike". Cutting islands into the "dike" will make the areas more remote and far less likely to have any human contact.

This application to partially restore some the natural water flow through this marsh area makes sense. And by bringing water back to the wetland, there will be the water that is vital to my company to stay in business. To me this is a win-win situation. And I can tell you this for sure: Without a reliable water source, Bob Barnes will never be able to maintain Barnes Nursery as it is today!

Barnes has invited the public down to see the project, and most are amazed at how beautiful the natural area is—and how much better it will be when it is planted. Let this project continue and allow this community to witness the good change that will benefit the entire environment.

Sincerely,



Ron Parron



1.  
[copy]  
Michael G. Montone  
Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
1776 Niagra  
Buffalo, New York 14207

Dear Sir,

Last night, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2001 my husband and I attended the open public meeting scheduled to discuss the pros and cons of the Barnes project vs. opposition to the project. We went as citizens, as friends of Bob and Sharon Barnes and their children, and to be perfectly honest out of curiosity of what the opposition was about. We didn't choose to speak because we didn't feel we could intelligently discuss the issue and was truly interested in the exchange. While sitting their listening I tried to keep an open mind to maybe I was missing something, maybe Barnes was wrong with what they wanted to do? The more I listened I couldn't help but think of conversations about environment as friends we have had, I recalled a three hour tour of the western Florida Everglades by Bob as he was in awe of "Mother Nature" and respectful of her. As I left the meeting another instance came to mind and I had to smile. The Barnes home is right next to their Nursery. A driveway runs along the side of their home and anyone can see there is this huge tree with, well it looks held together with metal, straps etc. and it occurred to me if a man would go to this much trouble to save a tree when in his business he could easily replace it, would he be capable of deliberately harming the environment, I don't think so, he and his company has spent a life time respecting it.

I do not pretend to truly understand the ecology of Sheldon's Marsh and after listening I still did not understand the opposition's fear of "certain demise". No one stated for sure what damage would be done only what they thought the damage would be.

From what I heard at this public meeting there are intelligent, educated and experienced people involved in this matter. I do not believe this project will threaten the existing environment as much as it threatens the people, who without fact, feel threatened by it in the name of conservation.

Respectfully,

Mary L. Carlstedt

June 20, 2001

Lt. Col. Glen DeWillie, District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
1776 Niagara St.  
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199

Dear Sir,

After visiting the Barnes Nursery project, attending the public hearing (all four hours), and having lived in the area since 1939, I have come to the following conclusions:

- 1) The project was designed with help from experts and with concern for the environment. All the rules were followed and the project legally started.
- 2) The project was stopped because of the effort of a couple of well-meaning environmental extremists with concern of possible damage to Sheldon's Marsh.
- 3) At the public hearing, no one explained how this project would negatively impact Sheldon's Marsh. Some did however predict horrible consequences but without merit.
- 4) The scare tactics of a few should not negatively impact the decision on the merits of the project.
- 5) The Barnes project should have no impact on Sheldon's Marsh now or in the future.
- 6) The permit to continue the project should be issued with concern for the environment. If there are concerns, a compromise should be worked out for the benefit of all.

Thank you for considering my comments. Let common sense prevail.

Edward L. Asher

Mayor, City of Huron

*Mr. & Mrs. Albert J. Sima Sr.  
1134 Mudbrook Road  
Huron, OH 44839-2611*

August 25, 2001

Honorable George V. Voinovich  
United States Senator  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D C 20510-3604

Senator Voinovich,

Thank you very much for your time in responding to us on July 30, 2001 regarding the Sheldon Marsh/Barnes Nursery permit request. I am very disappointed that you and your staff either totally misconstrued our position and request with respect to fully granting all of Barnes' requests OR your word processor put our name on the wrong response (I hope).

It is NOT "the community's desire" to remove present diking nor deny enhancing it. Quit the contrary! We all fully support any and all action Barnes Nursery has and should take to not only preserve this wetland through major dike construction but to maintain a constant Lake Erie water supply to their business. I don't know how we could have made our original letter any clearer.

This business **MUST SURVIVE** in the Huron community. There will be no sacrifice of any portion of Sheldon's March with their plans, rather protected from the enormous erosion we all are experiencing along Lake Erie with the low water levels.

We live on a Huron River tributary. It was beautiful with water and wildlife three years ago and prior. Now it is virtually all dry with overgrown weeds! That will happen to Sheldon's if you and the Corps of Engineers do not allow Barnes' project fully. Loss of water is traumatic to wetlands! I welcome you to come to our home to see this type of devastation of prior wetlands when water disappears. Call ahead and we'll put the coffee on. Mudbrook Road is State Route 13, we're 1 mile north of State Route 2.

Again, please do NOT buy in to very minority unlearned voices opposing dike expansion, for unjustified reasons. Also, please advise who told you Barnes' "misled the Corps"? This business is not only highly professional and ethical, they are vital to our community for their expertise and benevolence.

Please REVERSE the position you indicate in the July 30 letter. Rather, do "all you can" to encourage the Corps, EPA and any other governmental authority to fully grant any and all permit requests from Barnes Nursery in Huron, Ohio to maintain the current status of Sheldon's Marsh WITH water! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Albert J. Sima, Sr. (Huron City Councilperson)

cc: Barnes Nursery

Honorable Ed Asher, Mayor, City of Huron

*Copy*

Mr. Michael Montone  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Buffalo District

Re: CELRB Re: 2000-02170(1)  
Section OH 10 and 404

Dear Mr. Montone:

My Name is Peter A. Walderzak. I was a member of the Huron City Council for 24 years, from 1969-1993. I am also a member of the Huron City Planning Commission since 1969.

It has been my pleasure to know three generations of the Barnes family from Harold Barnes, grandfather, to Julie Barnes, the youngest granddaughter. They have always taken great pride in their business, but also great pride in their community.

The Barnes family have worked very hard to build their business for years. With their success they have also worked very hard building the Huron community, not only financially but in service and inspiration.

I attended the public hearing in effort to hear the facts, sort out the rhetoric and accusations that has been played so well in the local newspapers, but ended up hearing much of the same.

I am not an expert in these matters, but it seems to me we are dealing with two separate issues. One, Barnes Nursery needs affordable water to survive. They purchased the property as a farm before the term "Westlands" was ever coined. They have access to Lake Erie for irrigation, as many of us do along the lake, rivers, and streams that lead into Lake Erie. As a homeowner, I take water out of the Huron River for my "Greening of America," which is rich in nutrients. If I had to purchase water from the city, the cost would be prohibitive and full of chlorine, fluoride, and other chemicals. Two, Sheldens Marsh is not the old Sheldens Folly that was back in the 60's. Maybe someday, with higher water levels the "Garden of Eden" we remember will return. Probably not, as every year the activities and traffic increase.

I believe the Corps made the correct decision in granting the permit originally. I have not seen or heard any new facts that would make me believe differently. I will trust your judgement and expertise to make the most knowledgeable decision possible. A decision of fact, not of accusation.

In conclusion, I hope that this situation will be settled soon. The Barnes family are good citizens, with pride in their business and community. The name calling and fictitious reporting has to end.

Thank You,

Peter A. Walderzak

Bob

Best of Luck

You and your family don't  
deserve the nasty, negative accusation

Sincerely  
Peter A. Walderzak



June 8, 2001

Michael G. Montone  
Project Manager  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, New York 14207

RE: East Sandusky Bay Water Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Montone:

I have known the Barnes family and Barnes Nursery for over 20 years. I have seen them support, the Stein Hospice, Huron Parks and Recreation, Ducks Unlimited, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, United Way, Area High School Yearbooks, Erie County Fair, The Humane Society just to name a few. I have heard Bob Barnes say, when asked for a donation, "How much do you need?" They provide jobs for 150 people in the community. They are very active in the Ohio Composting Council, Past President of the Huron Chamber of Commerce, Past President of Huron School Board, Past President of the US Composting Council, Board of OSU Alumni, Board of Firelands Hospital and this just scratches the surface.

They have lived and run a very successful business on the lake since the 1950's. This includes boating, swimming and playing in the lake themselves. They are past recipients of "Environmental Company of the Year" by the Huron Chamber of Commerce. Does this sound like a family or business that would endanger their own environment? They are in an industry that enhances the environment and they excel at it.

What is it exactly that Barnes Nursery is asking for that every citizen in northern Ohio isn't doing. They want water to support their business and keep their plants alive. Most communities on the lake as well as many communities to the south take their water from Lake Erie. I don't understand how anyone could deny them the ability to support their business by denying them water.

If they are a danger to the marsh, then Point Retreat with its Marina and multi-family living should certainly be a much bigger danger. Why didn't someone do something to stop it. Barnes Nursery has been there for over 50 years and hasn't been a threat. Why now? Cedar Point and it's amount of cars and people passing daily with fumes liter and sewage would seem to be a much larger danger to the environment.

As a home owner, on Lake Erie, in Huron and a concerned citizen, I ask you to support Barnes Nursery in their need for water. We need more people as active and caring and supportive as they are. I am overwhelmed that anyone would question their integrity or intent of use of their environment.

Most sincerely,

Susan C. Sale  
212 Wall Street  
Huron, Ohio 44839

June 8, 2001

Mr. Michael G. Montone, Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo NY 14207

[Michael.g.montone@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.g.montone@usace.army.mil)

Re: Barnes Nursery Water Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Montone:

The purpose of this letter is to voice our strong and vigorous support for the efforts of Barnes Nursery of Huron, Ohio, to resolve all issues related to their water restoration project professionally and with integrity. We urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to carefully and thoroughly consider that:

- A. Barnes Nursery is a totally professional organization that has an over 50 year history of business responsibility, community involvement, and ecological land environmental support. (Our family has lived in Huron for over 25 years and we assure you that Barnes Nursery has always exhibited the highest standards of community involvement, and support of schools, churches, and civic organizations not only in Huron, but also throughout Erie County.)
- B. Barnes Nursery makes a huge contribution to employment and the tax base in Huron.
- C. Although we are not technically qualified to comment on the details of Barnes proposal, we believe that the company has taken a logical and rational approach to employing the highest quality experts, and that their plan will not harm the environment in any respect. Indeed, it would appear that, based on the published data, the project will help the environment.

We respectfully submit that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has an absolute responsibility to carefully consider the Barnes Nursery proposal and to work together with Barnes to resolve issues where conflict may exist. For a U. S. or State of Ohio Agency to be the adversary of a legitimate business with a responsible plan is counter-productive. Barnes Nursery has clearly exhibited a willingness to cooperate and work together with all parties.

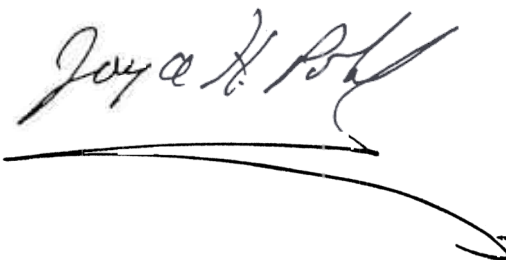
We urge you to give Barnes Nursery and its plan every reasonable opportunity for success.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Richard and Joyce Pohl  
1004 Dockway Drive  
Huron OH 44839



cc: Governor Bob Taft  
Senator George Voinovich  
Ohio Attorney General Betty Montgomery  
Christopher Jones, Ohio EPA Director  
Jeffrey Armbruster  
Ohio State Representative Tom Lendrum



DISTRICT PETROLEUM

## DISTRICT PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, INC.

P.O. BOX 2254

1832 MILAN ROAD

SANDUSKY, OHIO 44870-2254

PHONE 419-625-8373

FAX 419-625-8907

June 4, 2001

Mr. Michael G. Montone  
Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
1776 Niagra Street  
Buffalo, New York 14207

RE: Barnes Nursery Water Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Montone:

My name is Scott L. Stipp and I have been a life long resident of Huron, Ohio. My father, J. Sam Stipp has lived in Huron for over 50 years. We have both known Bob Barnes, his father and his family throughout all of these years. My father was Bob's Scoutmaster in the Boy Scouts. We have had many business dealings with their company and have always found them to be honest and straightforward. When it comes to the local community, the Barnes family cannot do enough. They always give back. This is an exemplary family both in business and in the community.

As President of a gasoline marketing and distribution business located in Sandusky, I know very well the struggle that goes on daily between protecting and preserving the environment, and surviving in business. None of us want to do anything to harm the environment, in the same spirit The Army Corps and our elected officials don't want to put businessmen, that provide for the economy, out of business. We all have a responsibility to work together; to search for solutions that enable commerce and the environment to co-exist, while each achieves it's desired result. It can and will be done.

The Barnes Nursery for the last 50 years has accessed water from East Sandusky Bay. Their company needs water every day to survive. There must be a way to help a "green" company obtain the water it needs, from a water source that abuts their own property in a fashion that is amenable to all.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott L. Stipp  
President & C.E.O.

*Bob Barnes  
Good Luck! I emailed  
all officials; this same letter  
Sorry; but I will not be  
able to attend hearing*